Single CAIS Access and Neutralization System

The Single CAIS Access and Neutralization System (SCANS) treats small quantities of chemical agent found in chemical agent identification set glass bottles.

The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) developed the Single CAIS Access and Neutralization System (SCANS), a hand-held, chemical treatment container used to access and treat Chemical Agent Identification Set (CAIS) bottles containing the chemical agents mustard (H) or lewisite (L). SCANS has performed six operations since its first treatment of a CAIS item at Fort McClellan, Ala., in December 2003.

CAIS include glass ampoules, vials and bottles that contain 4 ounces or less of chemical agents or industrial chemicals. The Army manufactured and distributed CAIS items to military installations around the country between 1928 and 1969 to train Soldiers in the safe identification, handling and decontamination of chemical agents. Many CAIS items were buried, an acceptable practice until the 1970s. The Army has been directed to destroy CAIS, assigning this mission to NSCMP.

The Army expects to continue recovering CAIS items through ongoing remediation and construction activities. CAIS items containing diluted agent or industrial chemicals in glass ampoules and vials are packaged and processed as hazardous waste.

OVERVIEW

SCANS Missions to date: 6
CAIS Items Treated using SCANS: 73

SCANS MISSION SITES & ITEMS DESTROYED

Former Fort McClellan, AL (1 item)
Holloman AFB, NM (8 items)
Former Fort McClellan, AL (1 item)
Fort Benning, GA (38 items)
Fort Bragg, NC (24 items)
Redstone Arsenal, AL (1 item)

For more information, contact the CMA Public Affairs Office at
(410) 436-3629
(800) 488-0648

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Single CAIS Access and Neutralization System (continued)

SCANS operations

STEP 1

To begin treatment, a SCANS operator places a single CAIS glass bottle inside the container adjacent to a 4-liter (approximately 1 gallon) glass jar containing neutralization chemicals, which operators mix on site.

STEP 2

Operators seal the SCANS by securing the access lid.

STEP 3

The operator hits the breaker bar with a hammer, shattering both jars and mixing the agent and neutralent in the sealed container. The neutralization reaction and associated products remain completely contained within the SCANS.

STEP 4

Finally, operators overpack the SCANS with absorbent into a larger container meeting U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. Operators then label the overpacked SCANS and ship it to a permitted facility for final treatment and disposal.